

## **REMARKS**

Applicants request favorable consideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1- 6 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 4-6 are independent. Claims 1, 2, and 5 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

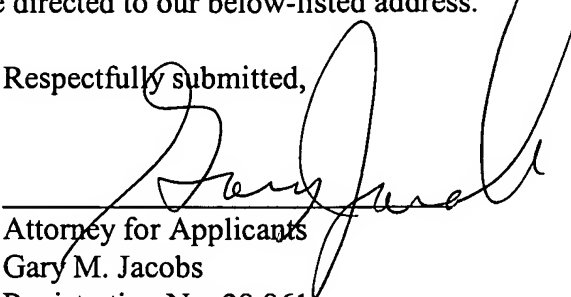
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 4 and 6 and the indication that Claims 1-3 and 5 would be allowed if redrafted to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, discussed below.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for minor informalities in Claims 1, 2, and 5. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1, 2, and 5 have been amended to address the points raised by the Examiner. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims now even more clearly satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In addition, the undersigned telephoned the Examiner on August 14, 2006 to informally discuss the claim amendments made in this amendment. The Examiner tentatively agreed that such amendments should overcome the rejection.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicants  
Gary M. Jacobs  
Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200  
GMJ:llp

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